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FORT KEOGH BIRD REFUGE
ESTABLISHED IN MONTANA

A 57,000-acre sanctuary for birds on the site of the former Fort Keogh Military Reservation near Miles City, Montana, to be known as the Fort Keogh Bird Refuge, has been created by President Hoover by Executive order. Administration of the refuge will be by the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. The reservation is under the control of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the same department, as a range livestock experiment station, and its use for this purpose will be continued as heretofore.

The move to establish a Federal bird refuge at this point was inaugurated by the Montana Sportsmen's Association, the Forest Service, and Montana members of Congress, in cooperation with Bureau of Animal Industry officials in charge of the Experiment Station. The project was recently approved by the Montana Fish and Game Commission and by the Custer Rod and Gun Club of Miles City. Within the area is a 70-acre artificial lake used for several years by the Montana Fish and Game Commission, in cooperation with the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Animal Industry, for the production of warm-water fishes, particularly black bass. The establishment of the bird refuge will not interfere with the fish-culture operations.

The land area of the refuge is inhabited principally by sharp-tailed grouse and ring-necked pheasants, which are reported to be on the increase there. The artificial lake forms an important resting place for the waterfowl and other migratory game birds of the region. Although there has been little hunting on the area since it has been operated as a livestock experiment station, officials believe that the complete protection of birds there will result in material increases in their numbers, thus greatly benefiting game-bird hunting in the adjacent region.

While the refuge is primarily under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Biological Survey, it will be administered in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry, and one or more of the livestock experiment station employees will be designated as wardens to enforce Federal wild-life reservation laws. The Biological Survey regards the Fort Keogh Refuge as an important unit in the system of refuges that gradually is being built up by that bureau for the maintenance of migratory and other birds.

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